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PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

OF THE

STATE OF MONTANA

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SOCIAL SECURITY DIVISION

1965-1966

Sam W. Mitchell Building
Rooms 232-233
Helena, Montana 59601

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Helena, Montana 59601

September 1, 1966

Honorable Tim Babcock

Governor of Montana

State Capitol

Helena, Montana

Dear Governor Babcock:

The Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Montana herewith respectfully presents for your consideration and record its Eleventh Annual Report of the operations and progress of its Social Security Division for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 1966, in accordance with the provisions of Section 68-501 (c), Revised Codes of Montana, 1947.

The Social Security Division provides coverage through the Montana-Federal Social Security Agreement of 1953 for all eligible public employees in Montana and serves as the administrative agency which determines eligibility for coverage and collects, audits and deposits contributions to the credit of employee members.

The benefits provided to public employees through participation in the Social Security program secure to each member and his beneficiary, or beneficiaries, a greater measure of security at superannuation, disability or death. It realizes more fully, when supplemented by the benefits available under the Public Employees' Retirement System, a more complete and satisfactory retirement plan for the deserving public employees and insures to the State of Montana, and its political subdivisions, the recruitment and retention of the more efficient career employees.

We appreciate this opportunity and privilege in being able to provide this measure of reward and recognition to the faithful and deserving public employees of the State of Montana and its contracting political subdivisions while contributing to the improvement of the personnel standards for efficient, courteous and stable public service in Montana.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

John F. Sasek, Secretary

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REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 1966

For the Period Beginning July 1, 1965 and Ending June 30, 1966

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

	Term Expires	
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A. C. GRANDE, JR., Martinsdale	April 1, 1970	Member
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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

JOHN F. SASEK	Secretary
OWEN L. MORRIS, JR.	Accountant
MICHAEL J. HUGHES	Attorney

LEGISLATION AND GROWTH

LEGISLATION

Public employees in Montana were first provided the opportunity of securing Social Security coverage, or Old Age, Survivors' and Disability Insurance under the provisions of Chapter 44, 1953 Session Laws of Montana, when the Thirty-third Legislative Assembly of Montana, enacted the enabling legislation whereby political subdivisions, not under a retirement system, could have some measure of security for themselves and beneficiaries at superannuation and for their survivors should the employees never reach superannuation. This enabling legislation was made possible by the 1950 amendments to the Federal Social Security Act which permitted public employees, not under a retirement system, to secure Social Security coverage which had not been previously available to them.

Under the authority granted to it by Chapter 44, 1953 Session Laws of Montana, the State Board of Examiners entered into a Federal-State Social Security agreement with the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, effective on December 7, 1953. This original agreement was applicable only to those political subdivisions not under a retirement system. The state agency designated to administer Social Security for public employees in Montana under this act was the State Board of Equalization.

The Montana Federal-State agreement of December 7, 1953, provided the basis of coverage for the various classes of positions among public employees in Montana and every agreement, or modification thereof, which has been executed by the State of Montana or its political subdivisions since that date has been governed by it, so that all classes of positions are covered except some employees working on a fee basis, firemen, policemen, students employed incidentally at the various educational institutions, and state highway patrolmen. The original agreement has been amended so that fee basis elective officials may be covered.

Social Security coverage under the provisions of Chapter 44, 1953 Session Laws, was secured solely through a voluntary Plan and Agreement negotiated between the legislative body and the State Board of Equalization, which administered Social Security for public employees in Montana until July 1, 1955, when the Public Employees' Retirement System assumed its administration.

The Thirty-fourth Legislative Assembly of Montana amended the original act of 1953 to allow public employees of Montana, who are under a retirement system, to add Social Security coverage to their coverage under a retirement system. This was done in accordance with the provisions of the 1954 amendments of the Federal Social Security Act. The coverage for these public employees was provided under Chapter 270, 1955 Session Laws of Montana, for members of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Montana, and under Chapter 271, 1955 Session Laws of Montana, for members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Montana who are professional employees of the six units of the Greater University of Montana or professional employees of a school district.

The 1954 amendments to the Federal Social Security act required that no state agency or political subdivision could add Social Security coverage without submitting the question of participation to the members of their respective retirement systems to a referendum vote conducted by the State Agency. The Montana amendments of 1955 incorporated this provision so that members of the Public Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System could participate in Old Age, Survivors' and Disability Insurance the same as public employees who are not under a retirement system. These amendments also transferred the administration of Social Security for public employees in Montana from the State Board of Equalization to the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Montana, effective as of July 1, 1955.

The 36th Legislative Assembly enacted Chapter 97, 1959 Session Laws of Montana making three changes in the previous state Social Security legislation. The most important section of Chapter 97 clarified the wording of the original enabling law so that it would coincide with any future changes in the retroactivity clause of the Federal Social Security Act. The other provisions of Chapter 97 corrected a typographical error which occurred in the preparation of Chapter 270, 1955 Session Laws of Montana and removed the word "teachers" from the exclusions of Chapter 270, 1955 Session Laws of Montana since the teacher group was covered by Chapter 271, 1955 Session Laws of Montana.

The 39th Legislative Assembly amended Section 59-1110, R.C.M., 1947 to provide that the contributions with respect to services of school district employees, equivalent to the employer's tax established by the Federal Social Security Act shall be the first obligation against any state funds received for school support by any school district, high school district or county high school, and shall first be paid therefrom. This amendment allowed the State of Montana to take advantage of the provisions of Section 218(e) of the Social Security Act whereby contributions with respect to wages for services performed under the agreement during the calendar year for the State and one or more school districts or for two or more school districts, shall be computed as though such wages were paid by a single employer for work done in its employ. Prior to this amendment an individual who worked for the State and one or more school districts or two or more school districts in a calendar year was required to be reported for all wages, up to the maximum reportable, by each school district and each school district was required to pay contributions on these amounts.

GROWTH

During the period from December 7, 1953 to July 1, 1955, the State Board of Equalization processed and provided coverage for 588 public employees of one (1) county, ten (10) cities, eighteen (18) towns, thirty-six (36) school districts, six (6) irrigation districts, four (4) public housing authorities, two (2) soil conservaiton districts, one (1) cemetery district and the Montana Municipal League.

During its first eleven years of administering Social Security for public employees in Montana the Public Employees' Retirement System conducted forty-two (42) statewide referendums, on October 10, 1955, January 4, 1956, April 16, 1956, May 28, 1956, October 15, 1956, January 28, 1957, May 6, 1957, September 16, 1957, December 6, 1957, April 4, 1958, September 29, 1958, January 16, 1959, April 16, 1959, October 5, 1959, December 4, 1959, March 23, 1960, May 6, 1960, December 9, 1960, February 17, 1961, May 5, 1961, November 15, 1961, December 15, 1961, February 16, 1962, March 23, 1962, May 4, 1962, November 15, 1962, December 14, 1962, February 15, 1963, May 3, 1963, December 13, 1963, February 14, 1964, May 8, 1964, May 22, 1964, August 31, 1964, December 11, 1964, March 12, 1965, April 16, 1965, May 14, 1965, August 30, 1965, December 18, 1965, March 18, 1966, and May 20, 1966, respectively and extended Old Age, Survivors' and Disability Insurance to 30,401 additional public employees in one hundred (100) state departments, fifty-six (56) counties, one hundred (100) cities and towns, all units of the Greater University of Montana, six hundred and seventy (670) school districts, eighteen (18) irrigation districts, fourteen (14) cemetery districts, two (2) municipal water departments, two (2) public libraries, five (5) soil conservation districts, one (1) planning board, five (5) public housing authorities, one (1) rural fire district, one (1) hospital association, one (1) county water district, and two (2) health districts.

By July 1, 1966, Old Age, Survivors' and Disability Insurance had been extended to the majority of public employees in Montana with 30,989 now participating. This is approximately 96% of the total estimated number of public employees who could be covered under Old Age, Survivors' and Disability Insurance. All state departments, all component units of the Greater University of Montana, all counties, the majority of cities, towns, first and second class school districts, and many other political subdivisions, have provided Social Security coverage for their public employees so that the number remaining is to be found principally in the smaller political subdivisions of the state.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATORS

The fourteenth annual National Conference of State Social Security Administrators was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 23-24, 1965. Montana was represented by Mr. Fred Hill, President, Board of Administration, Mr. John F. Sasek, Secretary, Public Employees' Retirement System, and Mr. Owen L. Morris, Jr., Accountant, Social Security Division.

The Conference is conducted under the supervision of the member states with the cooperation of the Social Security Administration. The conference is held so that the states may present their problems and offer suggestions concerning the operation of the Social Security program in their state and for the states to exchange ideas. The conference also proposes legislation to present to Congress to better the Social Security program as concerns the states.

WAIVER OF HEARING AND PARTIAL TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

PURPOSE

When a political subdivision or absolute coverage group is dissolved, it is necessary for the State to take action to have the dissolved political subdivision removed from the agreement. A political subdivision which has been dissolved must be terminated by the Secretary pursuant to the provisions of the Act under which the Secretary may terminate an agreement or part of an agreement, if the State is legally unable to comply with the terms of the agreement. The formal document used for this procedure is called a "Waiver of Hearing and Partial Termination of Agreement."

RECENT TERMINATIONS

During the past fiscal year sixteen (16) documents of Waiver of Hearing and Partial Termination of Agreement were executed by the Secretary removing forty (40) teacher coverage groups, and eight (8) coverage groups of employees other than teachers from the Social Security Agreement.

REFERENDUMS

PURPOSE OF REFERENDUM

A referendum is held so that employees of public agencies under a retirement system might be afforded the opportunity to vote on the question of supplementing their present retirement problem with the OASDI coverage. Congress in enacting the provisions relating to retirement system coverage under OASDI specifically declared its policy to be that the protection afforded employees in positions covered by a retirement system, or the payment of periodic benefits under a retirement system, will not be impaired as a result of such coverage or as the result of legislation enacted in anticipation of such coverage.

RECENT REFERENDUMS

During the past fiscal year four referendums were conducted for political subdivisions in the state on August 30, 1965, December 18, 1965, March 18, 1966, and May 20, 1966. In these referendums 27 school districts participated with 102 eligible employees voting. The final certification of the referendums showed employees of 26 agencies voting favorably for the coverage and employees of one agency voting against coverage. The agencies, where the employees voted against coverage, must wait one full year from the date of the last referendum in which they participated before they are eligible to participate in another referendum.

MODIFICATIONS

PURPOSE OF MODIFICATION

The Social Security Act provides that a State's original agreement may be modified to include additional coverage groups and to cover services previously excluded from an agreement or modification. The coverage must be consistent with the provisions of the Federal Social Security Act.

An agreement is modified by the use of a formal document known as a "Modification." The signing of a modification is an acknowledgment of the full applicability to it of the provisions of the original agreement.

RECENT MODIFICATIONS

During the past fiscal year the Social Security Division prepared and processed 18 modifications which were approved and signed by the Social Security Administration in Baltimore, Maryland. These modifications extended the coverage to the following groups: Teachers at 35 school districts, employees who are members of the P.E.R.S. at 3 school districts, employees who only have social security coverage at 12 school districts, and 3 towns.

Modifications are continuously being prepared extending coverage to those agencies desiring the coverage for their employees.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

(7-1-65 to 6-30-66)

During the fiscal year which ended on June 30, 1966, Social Security contributions in the amount of $9,018,867.03 were collected from member agencies. This is $1,189,819.40 more than the preceding fiscal year and is attributable to the increase in contribution rates, the increase in covered employees and to higher wages paid to covered employees.

Administrative expense fees collected amounted to $35,443.59 compared with $32,424.84 for the preceding twelve-month period. Interest income totalled $27,328.22 for an increase of $8,614.37 over the previous fiscal year. It is recommended that this income be usable for administrative purposes.

Disbursements for administrative expense totalled $31,613.76 which was $2,414.46 less than the period from July 1, 1964, to June 30, 1965, or a reduction of 7.1%.

INCOME AND DISBURSEMENTS

July 1, 1965 to June 30, 1966

Assets as of June 30, 1965		$ 323,812.41
INCOME FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1966		
Employee and Employer Contributions	$9,018,867.03	
Contribution to Expense	35,443.59	
Interest from U. S. Treasury Bills	27,328.22	
TOTAL INCOME		$ 9,081,638.84
BALANCE TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR		$ 9,405,451.25
DISBURSEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1966		
Personal Services:		
Salaries	$ 21,008.53	
Employee Benefits	1,130.46	
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	$ 22,138.99	
Operations:		
Supplies and Materials	$ 1,021.48	
Communications	834.87	
In-State Travel	403.68	
Out-of-State Travel	1,201.64	
Contracted Services	871.59	
Special Fees	4,711.82	
TOTAL OPERATIONS EXPENSE	$ 9,045.08	
Repairs and Maintenance:		
Equipment	$ 126.14	
TOTAL REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	$ 126.14	
Depreciation:		
Furniture and Fixtures	$ 303.55	
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	$ 303.55	
Grants, Aid Payments, Transfers:		
Payments of Contributions	$8,821,991.36	
Payments of Interest	421.06	
Refunds	2.00	
TOTAL GRANTS, AID PAYMENTS, TRANSFERS	$8,822,414.42	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		$ 8,854,028.18
BALANCE JUNE 30, 1966		$ 551,423.07

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT

ASSETS:		
*Cash	$ 9,775.74	
Furniture and Fixtures	4,728.66	
U. S. Treasury Bills	536,918.67	
TOTAL ASSETS		$ 551,423.07
LIABILITIES:		
Agency Account (Contributions)	$ 538,168.58	
Earmarked Revenue Account (Expense)	13,254.49	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		$ 551,423.07

*On deposit with the State Treasurer.

REFERENDUMS HELD IN THE STATE FOR MEMBERS OF THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM ON THE QUESTION OF SUPPLEMENTING THEIR PRESENT RETIREMENT PROGRAM WITH SOCIAL SECURITY

REFERENDUMS	Agencies Voting For Social Security	Agencies Voting Against	Per Cent In Favor
First Referendum—October 10, 1955	128	3	97.7%
Second Referendum—January 4, 1956	50	4	92.5%
Third Referendum—April 16, 1956	110	8	93.2%
Fourth Referendum—May 28, 1956	66	15	81.5%
Fifth Referendum—October 15, 1956	42	11	79.2%
Sixth Referendum—January 28, 1957	56	3	94.9%
Seventh Referendum—May 6, 1957	35	2	94.6%
Eighth Referendum—September 16, 1957	51	5	91.1%
Ninth Referendum—December 6, 1957	71	9	88.8%
Tenth Referendum—April 4, 1958	57	1	98.2%
Eleventh Referendum—September 29, 1958	44	3	93.6%
Twelfth Referendum—January 16, 1959	31	1	96.9%
Thirteenth Referendum—April 16, 1959	23	1	95.8%
Fourteenth Referendum—October 5, 1959	23	6	82.1%
Fifteenth Referendum—December 4, 1959	12	4	75.0%
Sixteenth Referendum—March 23, 1960	20	7	74.1%
Seventeenth Referendum—May 6, 1960	2	1	66.7%
Eighteenth Referendum—December 6, 1960	22	5	73.3%
Nineteenth Referendum—February 17, 1961	12	5	58.3%
Twentieth Referendum—May 5, 1961	8	0	100.0%
Twenty-first Referendum—November 15, 1961	1	0	100.0%
Twenty-second Referendum—December 15, 1961	21	2	91.3%
Twenty-third Referendum—February 16, 1962	8	0	100.0%
Twenty-fourth Referendum—March 23, 1962	4	0	100.0%
Twenty-fifth Referendum—May 4, 1962	7	0	100.0%
Twenty-sixth Referendum—November 15, 1962	2	0	100.0%
Twenty-seventh Referendum—December 14, 1962	11	2	84.6%
Twenty-eighth Referendum—February 15, 1963	8	0	100.0%
Twenty-ninth Referendum—May 3, 1963	6	3	66.6%
Thirtieth Referendum—December 13, 1963	16	0	100.0%
Thirty-first Referendum—February 14, 1964	5	1	80.0%
Thirty-second Referendum—May 8, 1964	4	0	100.0%
Thirty-third Referendum—May 22, 1964	1	0	100.0%
Thirty-fourth Referendum—August 31, 1964	1	0	100.0%
Thirty-fifth Referendum—December 11, 1964	15	1	93.7%
Thirty-sixth Referendum—March 12, 1965	7	1	87.5%
Thirty-seventh Referendum—April 16, 1965	3	0	100.0%
Thirty-eighth Referendum—May 14, 1965	2	0	100.0%
Thirty-ninth Referendum—August 30, 1965	2	0	100.0%
Fortieth Referendum—December 18, 1965	17	0	100.0%
Forty-first Referendum—March 18, 1966	6	1	85.7%
Forty-second Referendum—May 20, 1966	2	0	100.0%
	1,012	105	91.3%

Agencies having an unfavorable vote for the Social Security coverage must wait one full year before voting again.

SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE BY COUNTIES (as of June 30, 1966)

COUNTY	School Districts	Cities Towns	Other Agencies
Beaverhead	15	1	---
Big Horn	6	1	2
Blaine	16	2	5
Broadwater	3	1	1
Carbon	13	4	2
Carter	13	1	---
Cascade	26	4	2
Chouteau	28	3	1
Custer	16	1	---
Daniels	4	2	1
Dawson	18	2	---
Deer Lodge	3	1	1
Fallon	8	1	---
Fergus	35	2	---
Flathead	19	3	1
Gallatin	20	4	---
Garfield	13	1	---
Glacier	7	1	1
Golden Valley	3	1	---
Granite	4	2	---
Hill	17	1	1
Jefferson	8	2	---
Judith Basin	8	---	---
Lake	10	3	2
Lewis and Clark	15	2	2
Liberty	10	1	---
Lincoln	14	2	1
Madison	9	4	3
McCone	13	1	---
Meagher	7	1	---
Mineral	4	1	---
Missoula	14	1	2
Musselshell	7	2	---
Park	9	1	2
Petroleum	5	1	---
Phillips	13	3	2
Pondera	15	2	1
Powder River	4	1	---
Powell	9	1	---
Prairie	3	1	1
Ravalli	8	3	1
Richland	19	2	2
Roosevelt	9	5	2
Rosebud	6	1	2
Sanders	9	2	1
Sheridan	15	2	---
Silver Bow	5	1	1
Stillwater	12	1	---
Sweet Grass	16	1	---
Teton	10	3	2
Toole	14	3	1
Treasure	3	1	1
Valley	13	2	2
Wheatland	4	1	---
Wibaux	10	1	---
Yellowstone	17	2	4

The School District figure includes districts which hove the teachers covered, or both the teachers and other employees covered or only the employees other than teachers covered. The particular coverage group which has the Social Security coverage in any school district of a county may be obtained by writing to this office indicating the district number and the county in which the district is located.

NUMBER OF AGENCIES OFFERING THEIR EMPLOYEES SOCIAL SECURITY AS OF JUNE 30, 1966

(By Coverage Groups)

COVERAGE GROUPS	Number of Agencies
SCHOOL DISTRICTS:	
Teachers	613
Members of the Public Employees' Retirement System	98
Members who do not belong to the Public Employees' Retirement System	206
CITIES AND TOWNS:	
Members of the Public Employees' Retirement System	46
Members who do not belong to the Public Employees' Retirement System	54
COUNTIES: (100%)	
Members of the Public Employees' Retirement System	55
Members who do not belong to the Public Employees' Retirement System	1
STATE DEPARTMENTS (100%)	100
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM (100%)	6
OTHER AGENCIES:	
Irrigation Districts	18
Cemetery Districts	14
Municipal Water Departments	2
Public Libraries	2
Public Housing Authorities	5
Soil Conservation Districts	5
Montana Municipal League	1
Planning Board	1
Rural Fire District	1
Hospital Association	1
County Water District	1
Public Health District	2

SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AS OF JUNE 30, 1966

The number of school districts covered by Social Security according to specific coverage groups.

COVERAGE GROUPS	Number of Districts
*Teachers	613
Employees other than Teachers (Total)	304
Employees other than Teachers who are members of the Public Employees' Retirement System	98
Employees other than Teachers who only have Social Security coverage	206
All Employees covered, Teachers and employees other than Teachers	281

*All teaching positions in Montana are covered by the Teachers' Retirement System.

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